



A.D. 8.4, Dental Services - Prepared for signature 7/14/99 - effective 8/16/99

1. Policy. The Department of Correction shall provide inmates with dental services.
2. Authority and Reference.
 - A. Connecticut General Statutes, Section 18-81 and Chapter 379.
 - B. Doe vs Meachum, Civil Action No. H-88-562 (PCD), November 2, 1990.
 - C. American Correctional Association, Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, Third Edition, January 1990, Standards 3-4327, 3-4330 through 3-4335, 3-4340, 3-4346 through 3-4348, 3-4350, 3-4355, 3-4356, 3-4358, 3-4360, 3-4365, 3-4376 and 3-4377.
 - D. American Correctional Association, Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities,  1, Standards 3-ALDF-4E-02, 3-ALDF-4E-05 through 3-ALDF-4E-10,  3-ALDF-4E-16, 3-ALDF-4E-23, 3-ALDF-4E-27, 3-ALDF-4E-29, 3-ALDF-4E-30, 3-ALDF-4E-35, 3-ALDF-4E-46 and 3-ALDF-4E-47.
 - E. Administrative Directives 8.6, Credentials of Health Care Providers and 8.7, Health Records Management.
3. Definitions. For the purposes herein, the following definitions shall apply:
 - A. Dental Health Assessment. An inmate's dental health evaluation which utilizes dental health history and an oral examination with radiographic and other studies, as appropriate.
 - B. Dental Screening. The process of collecting an inmate's dental health information, to include dental health history and current dental health data.
 - C. Health Services Staff. Any staff person employed by the Department of Correction, or the Department of Correction's provider for health services, on a part time, contractual, or full time basis whose primary responsibility is to provide health services to inmates remanded to the care and custody of the Commissioner of Correction. Any student intern or volunteer under the supervision and direction of health services shall be considered health services staff.
 - D. Qualified Health Services Dental Personnel. A Department employee or Department contract employee specifically qualified to provide dental health care services, in accordance with Administrative Directive 8.6, Credentials of Health Care Providers.
4. Universal Precautions. Each dentist shall ensure that universal precautions and appropriate infection control procedures are practiced during the delivery of dental services.
5. Dental Records. All inmate dental health information shall be documented by qualified dental personnel. Documented dental health information shall be filed in the inmate health record and shall be subject to all provisions in accordance with Administrative Directive 8.7, Health Records Management.
6. Dental Services.

- A. Admission Dental Screening and Assessment. Upon intake admission or transfer to a Department of Correction facility, each inmate shall be provided with written information describing available dental services and procedures for accessing the services.
 1. Admission Referral for Routine Care. If a routine dental need is identified, the inmate shall be instructed to submit a written request for Dental Sick Call.
 2. Admission Referral for Urgent Care. If the screening and assessment indicates a priority and/or painful dental condition, health screening personnel shall immediately refer the inmate for a dental health assessment. If the screening and assessment indicates that the dental condition is identified, as a priority treatment need, the dental health assessment shall be conducted within the first 72 hours of admission. Transfer to a community dental health care facility for emergency care shall be provided when determined by the dentist to be necessary, as outlined in Section 6(D) of this Directive.
 - B. Dental Health Initial Assessment. An initial dental health evaluation shall include an assessment based upon a review of intake health screening information, health record documentation, a current dental history, and an oral examination with radiographic studies.
 - C. Preventive Services. A professional dental prophylaxis shall be performed when prescribed by the Dentist. Dentistry staff shall provide oral hygiene instruction and preventative dental evaluation.
 - D. Treatment. An individualized treatment plan shall be developed by the dentist for each inmate with a dental condition requiring close dental supervision, prior to the initiation of treatment.
 1. Dental Emergency Services. Each inmate with a dental emergency shall be referred immediately by health care staff for appropriate treatment.
 2. Restorative Services. The dentist shall determine if an inmate needs restorative services based upon a dental examination and assessment.
 3. Off-Site Dental Referral. If a dentist determines an inmate requires a level of dental care beyond that which can be provided within the Department of Correction, the dentist shall make a referral to the Utilization Review Committee (URC) for review and disposition.
7. Exceptions. Any exception to the procedures in this Administrative Directive shall require prior written approval from the Commissioner.